

C. Amendment to the Claims

Please cancel claims 17, 18, 24 and 25 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 19-23 as follows.

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Amended) An optical element having a film on its surface, said film comprising at least one layer of silica containing fluorine, wherein a refractive index of the layer or layers of silica for F_2 laser light is 1.60 to 1.80.

20. (Currently Amended) The [[An]] optical element according to claim 19 having a film on its surface, said film comprising at least one layer of silica containing fluorine, wherein said film further comprises a layer of a material selected from the group consisting of MgF_2 , LiF , and Na_3AlF_6 .

21. (Currently Amended) The optical element according to claim 19 ~~claim 17~~, wherein said element is comprised of fluorite.

22. (Currently Amended) The optical element according to claim 19 ~~claim 17~~, wherein said element is comprised of ~~silica~~ containing fluorine.

23. (Currently Amended) The optical element according to claim 19 ~~claim 17~~, wherein said film is an antireflection coating.

24-25. (Cancelled)

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